

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact:

Elisa Russ, Groundfish Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 235-8191  
Fax: (907) 235-2448

Homer Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
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#### **FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **COOK INLET PARALLEL PACIFIC COD POT SEASON CLOSURES**

#### **STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENS**

#### **EO # 2-GF-H-12-12**

The Cook Inlet Area parallel Pacific cod season will close to vessels fishing pot gear at **12:00 noon October 12, 2012** and the Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod pot season will immediately reopen at 12:00 noon October 12.

The parallel season closure coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the Pacific cod pot gear sector in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. Fishermen are reminded that there is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery. Pacific cod taken during the parallel season must be landed prior to participating in the state-waters season.

The Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan 5 AAC 28.367 allows for any guideline harvest level (GHL) remaining on September 1 to be available for harvest by all legal gear, and approximately 484,000 pounds remain. Gear for the fishery is restricted to 60 pots (with buoy identification tags) or 5 jigging machines. The state-waters season will remain open to vessels fishing with pot and jig gear until the GHL is achieved or December 31, unless closed by subsequent emergency order.

Area registration in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery is exclusive and vessel registrations may be obtained from department offices in Homer, Cordova, and Kodiak or by prior arrangement from the Department of Public Safety in Seward. A vessel may not participate in a state-waters Pacific cod season and any other Pacific cod season at the same time.

Waters adjacent to two rookeries within the Cook Inlet Area remain closed to fishing for Pacific cod with pot or longline gear to protect Steller sea lions. Waters within 3 nautical miles of these locations are closed to vessel transit and waters within 10 nautical miles of these locations are closed to fishing with fixed gear via emergency order. Contact NMFS in Kodiak at ph: (907) 481-1780 or consult the NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/regs/679b22.pdf>.

Regulation 5AAC 28.350 (b), also closes certain waters to groundfish pot gear within Kachemak Bay and along the west side of Cook Inlet. Please contact ADF&G in Homer with questions about the state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

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